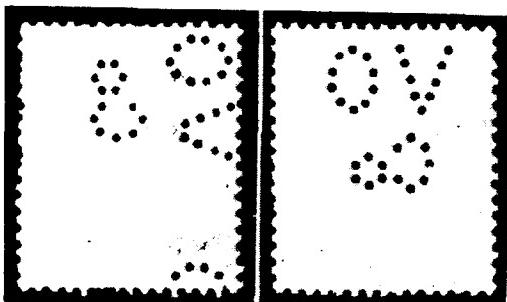


"New" Palestine Perfin Pattern Discovered

Jacob Kisner (#2168)



The June 1996 issue of *The Israel Philatelist*, journal of the Society of Israel Philatelists, reports an exciting discovery of two Palestine stamps with the perfin pattern "VO/Co". The article by David Dorfman relates the circumstances of the discovery, and illustrates the "new" perfin pattern on page 7554 of the journal.

The two Palestine stamps carrying the pattern VO/Co are both canceled with 1924 dates. The perfins came from the Vacuum Oil Company which had offices in Haifa -- the terminus of the famous Iraqi oil pipeline.

As Bob Schwerdt's survey of world known perfins as reported in the September 1985 *Perfins Bulletin* listed only two known patterns for Palestine, this new discovery amounts to a great find for the perfin collector. This should alert those who have bundles and/or accumulations of "common" Palestinian stamps to search for this "new" pattern.

The two known Palestine perfin patterns up to now are A.P.C. (Anglo-Palestine Corporation, Jerusalem) and CL/J (Credit Lyonnais, Jerusalem). Two other perfin patterns are also known to have been used in Palestine stamps, but these were in Austrian and Russian Offices in Palestine stamps. They are O&M (Observatoire & Musee, Jerusalem) and the Hebrew letters "qoph, qoph & lamed - קּוֹפֵה" (Fund for the Development of Israel, Jerusalem). This new find brings the totals for Palestine to three or five, whichever way you wish to count them.